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There is much beauty in the poem of Mr. Gallagher. George D. Prentiss, the wittiest editor of the West, is also one of the most brilliant poets. We should like to give his lines on the "Birthday of Washington."

There is a fine piece, which we are vexed not to find room for, by a poetess whose name is new to us ; "The Green Hills of my Fatherland," by Mrs. Laura M. Thurston. It is all good, except the "filling the green silentness with melody and mirth," which is an impossibility.

5.—*De la Littérature et des Hommes de Lettres des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.* Par EUGENE A. VAIL, Citoyen des Etats-Unis. A Paris : Librairie de Charles Gosselin. 1841. 8vo. pp. 617.

It is pleasant to see a volume of the goodly size and appearance of the one before us, containing a summary sketch of the literature and the literary men of this country, and intended to gratify the curiosity or to guide the researches of that portion of the reading public in France, who wish to know what is doing in the Transatlantic world of mind. It should contain sufficient evidence, that we are doing something else on this side of the water besides raising cotton and tobacco, or buying wines and silks, in which two relations, probably, more than in any others, our existence is generally known to the subjects of Louis Philippe.

Such a publication may prepare the way towards paying off a debt, which has already acquired some magnitude, — a debt reckoned not in francs or dollars, but in the means of intellectual nourishment and gratification. Some acquaintance with French literature is now esteemed among us, not merely as an elegant accomplishment, but as a necessary part of the education of both sexes. The poets and the historians, the novelists and the philosophers of France, are here read and appreciated by a much larger circle than is conversant with the literature of any other country in Europe, of course excepting England. The range of books and authors comes down to the present day, new French publications now making their appearance quite regularly on the counters of our booksellers. It has been Mr. Vail's intention to present a show-bill of American wares in return, which, in point of number and variety, at least, offers no meagre aspect. He briefly enumerates and characterizes the principal literary productions of this

country in chapters devoted respectively to history, the science of government and philosophy, religion and morals, miscellaneous letters, jurisprudence and the sciences, oratory and fiction, and works of fancy and the imagination. His list contains the names of about two hundred authors, of more or less note, beside some Indian orators not addicted to writing, and some clergymen and men of science, who have distinguished themselves in their respective callings, though they have contributed little or nothing directly to the press. He has thus accumulated good proofs of literary activity, although his catalogue is far from being complete, as may be inferred from one fact mentioned by him, that in a single year, 1834, the American press sent forth two hundred and fifty one separate publications.

The contents of Mr. Vail's work, on the whole, hardly satisfy the expectations created by its title. It contains little more than a *catalogue raisonné* of men and books, a few facts in the career of the former being incidentally mentioned, and the notices of the latter being accompanied with brief translated extracts, which serve still further to indicate the character of the original. These extracts fill a large portion of the volume, and are generally selected with good taste, and translated with commendable spirit and fidelity. There are also introductory remarks of a general nature on the various subjects treated, written in a fanciful and pleasing style, though not betokening much thought or severe labor. The writer hardly attempts to give any comprehensive views of American literature as a whole, or of the influences under which it is produced, or to judge of it in comparison with the productions of other countries. The criticism, if it can be called such, is wholly laudatory, the writer's object being only to present the favorable side of his subject, and thereby to tempt others to examine and discriminate for themselves.

6.—*Lectures on the History of Literature, Ancient and Modern.*
From the German of FREDERIC SCHLEGEL. New York:
J. & H. G. Langley. 1841. 12mo. pp. 39.

THE services rendered to literature by the two illustrious brothers, Augustus William and Frederic Schlegel, are known wherever literature exists. Their most important works in the department of criticism have been well translated into English, and have excited universal admiration. In truth, philosophi-